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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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DATE DISTR. 26 Feb 54

SUBJECT Resettlement of Population of  
Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR

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DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. At the end of December 1943 the 95th Border Guard Regiment was stationed in Divnoye N 45-56, E 43-23 waiting for a new assignment of which the CO alone had been notified. At the end of January 1944 the regiment received orders to proceed by rail to Groznyy N 43-20, E 45-42. Upon arrival at Groznyy the regiment was quartered on the western outskirts of the city.

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2. Despite the protests of local Party and administrative authorities, requisitioned a club building, several schools, a hospital, and many other administrative and private buildings for the billeting of troops in Novosel'skoye. Teaching was discontinued in the schools and patients were removed from the hospital. As justification for this measure, the local authorities were given the explanation that the troops were coming from the front for rest, reorganization, and training and, therefore, the sacrifices of the population were necessary. a written protest against this requisition

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- 50X1 of the school buildings and the hospital was sent by the Novosel'skoye RayIspolkom to their superiors but [ ] it remained unanswered. In order to pacify the embittered population a war propaganda campaign was carried out in Novosel'skoye. Hundreds of patriotic posters and slogans were put up inviting the indigenous population to cooperate with the Army in the fight against the Germans and to accept arriving troops as heroes of the nation.
- 50X1 3. When the 95th Regiment arrived at Novosel'skoye [See Encl. A7] and was assigned to its quarters, the regimental CO, Lt. Col. UMANETS, held a briefing for officers. [ ] in compliance with a governmental decree the entire population of Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR was to be resettled to remote regions of the USSR for their collaboration with the German-Fascist invading armies. He made it very clear that because of the proud national feelings of Checheno-Ingushsi as well as their warlike characteristics, resistance was to be anticipated. He said that preparations for the deportation would have to include readiness of strong armed support. No date for execution of the deportation operation was given.
4. The next three weeks in Novosel'skoye were spent in the most detailed preparation of the pending operation. While the NKVD operational officers (of whom there were at least 80) prepared lists of the inhabitants, the troops of the 95th Border Guard Regiment underwent intensive training with the threefold purpose:
- a. To deceive the indigenous population into believing that the sojourn of troops in Novosel'skoye was dictated by reorganization and combat training needs.
  - b. To explore the area for existing entries and exits to and from Novosel'skoye, and to ascertain whether any stocks of arms and bunkers or pillboxes had been prepared in the hills southwest of Novosel'skoye from which resistance to the deportation could be made.
  - c. To prepare measures for armed protection of the operation. For this purpose trenches were dug and MG emplacements prepared around the entire area of Novosel'skoye. In addition, a number of MG emplacements were prepared on commanding hills southwest of Novosel'skoye.
- Troops were extensively trained in day and night alerts, taking assigned positions and blocking the village exits.
5. Around 20 January 1944 the regiment received the executive order. In order to achieve complete surprise, the date of 23 January, Red Army Day (on which there were always celebrations and military parades), was chosen. An extensive propaganda campaign was carried out in Novosel'skoye inviting the indigenous population to take part in the celebration and to give proof in this way of the unbreakable spiritual link between the Red Army and the freedom-loving peoples of the USSR.
6. On the morning of 23 January 1944 practically the entire male population of Novosel'skoye and a large number of women in their holiday clothes, headed by the members of the Novosel'skoye Rayon Party Committee and Executive Committee (RayIspolkom) bearing red banners, pictures of Stalin and Lenin, and Party slogans, went in formation to the marketplace to take part in the Red Army Day celebration. The column of adults was followed by school children and members of Komsomol and Pioneer organizations, all in military formation. The Army Band of the 95th Regiment was at the marketplace playing marches and contributing to the holiday spirit. The local Party bosses and commanding personnel of the 95th Regiment were on the stand to receive the ovations of the people as they paraded in front of them. When

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the review was completed, patriotic speeches were given by the Secretary of the Novosel'skoye Party Committee, the CO of the 95th Regiment, and Lt. Col. KARNAUKHOV, the regimental political officer (in 1952, full colonel and Deputy Head of Political Administration of Militia, USSR). The speech made by Lt. Col. KARNAUKHOV [redacted] was a masterpiece of hypocrisy:

"... In this great war of our fatherland against the invader, the peoples of the USSR, united under the glorious leadership of Comrade Stalin, have once more proven the theory of Lenin and Stalin, that the USSR has indeed been a happy and unbreakable union of independent national groups living on Soviet territory..."

7. According to the old Caucasian custom, presents were given by the population to the distinguished guests - Lt. Col. UMANETS and Lt. Col. KARNAUKHOV. An old Chechen with a long white beard and in national holiday costume presented Lt. Col. UMANETS with a beautiful horse and saddle. Another Chechen presented Lt. Col. KARNAUKHOV with a wonderful "burka" (a Caucasian garment worn instead of an overcoat). All this was accompanied by appropriate speeches in praise of the love and brotherly feelings that bloomed between the Russians and the Checheno-Ingushsi.

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8. While the celebration was going on, the troops of the 95th Regiment took up their assigned positions. The village was surrounded by soldiers armed with submachine guns in prepared trenches. This was the so-called outer encirclement ring [redacted]. The inner encirclement ring was organized around the marketplace where the celebration was going on; soldiers armed with submachine guns blocked all exits from the marketplace. Finally, one company of soldiers marched to the northern exit of the marketplace and formed two solid lines with a passage between. This was the only exit through which the population could leave.

9. The population was completely unaware of what was going to happen. Finally, when the last soldier was in his place, a flare signal was given and the deputy regimental CO for Intelligence, Maj. KHORIN, went to the stand. He was brief and to the point:

"For its treacherous attitude... the entire population of Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR is to be resettled to remote regions of the Soviet Union... Any resistance is senseless... The village is surrounded and arms will be used without warning... You will proceed now in an orderly way to the northern exit of the marketplace, passing between the two lines of soldiers placed there and disposing of all weapons you have on your persons before you reach the formation of soldiers... Whoever tries to conceal arms will be shot on the spot."

What followed did not take much time. Armed soldiers closed in on the mass and pushed them toward the northern exit. Realizing that resistance would indeed be senseless, the people complied with the orders. One Chechen, about 35 years old, tried to conceal a pistol and was shot to death where he stood. Together with the Party administrative personnel, the people were marched to the outskirts of the village, loaded on trucks and taken immediately to the railroad station Zakan-Yurt, approximately 12 km. northeast of Novosel'skoye.

10. At the time the operation was being carried out in the marketplace, NKVD operational officers with details of soldiers went to the different parts of the village to round up everyone who had not been in the marketplace; this was carried out in the same way as the Karachayevtsy operation [redacted]. The entire operation was completed

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in one day. The total number of persons deported from Novosel'skoye was probably 300 or 400 families, or about 2,000 people altogether. [redacted] the population of Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR had been resettled either in Kazakh or in Uzbek SSR.

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12. The headquarters for the deportation of the Checheno-Ingushsi was organized in Groznyy, and the highest authority in charge of the operation was Deputy People's Commissar of the Interior, Gen. Col. (?) SEROV (Deputy of Beriia). One of his closest assistants in Groznyy was Brig. Gen. (General Mayor) ZIMIN, Deputy Commanding General of Border Troops for Protection of the Rear of the Red Army (Zamestitel' nachal'nika pogranichnykh voysk po okhrane tyl'a deystvuyushchey krasnoy armii), who, I heard, was in charge of the deployment of troops for the deportation of the Checheno-Ingushsi. Brig. Gen. ZIMIN came to Novosel'skoye several times to inspect the preparations being made by the 95th Border Guard Regiment.

13. In addition to the 95th Border Guard Regiment, the following units participated in the resettlement of the Checheno-Ingushsi: 25th Border Guard Regiment; 26th Border Guard Regiment; First Special Purpose Separate Moscow Infantry Division (Pervaya otdel'naya moskovskaya strelkovaya diviziya osobogo naznacheniya - Pervaya OMSDON) /Subordination unknown/; Border Troops Officer Candidate School, at that time referred to as the Border Troop Advanced Command and Training School (Pogranichnaya shkola usovershenstvovaniya komandnogo sostava - PogShUKS); several regiments of interior troops, convoy troops, and presumably several regular Soviet Army units.

14. Just as in previous deportation operations [redacted] following the deportation of the Checheno-Ingushsi national group from the territory of their ASSR, all members of this group occupying any government positions or working or living elsewhere in the USSR were also arrested and deported /sic/. The same rule was applied to members of the USSR Armed Forces who were of Checheno-Ingush nationality; they were demobilized and deported to join their national group in exile.

## Enclosure:

A. Sketch of Area of Operation 95th Border Guards Regt. in Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR in February 1944.

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Enclosure A. Sketch of Area of Operation 95th Border Guards Regt. in Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR in February 1944.

Map NK-38-2  
A.M.S. Series N501  
Scale 1:250,000

